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FirstNet "Opt-in/Opt-out" Task Force Report

Compiled by:

Ric Lombard, Bob Younie, Michele Bischof and the FirstNet Work Group

Iowa FirstNet Broadband Committee

Online Research: (Article "Handicapping the States and FirstNet" – Bill Schrier – April 11, 2016)

Bill Schrier- Former Chief Technology Officer – City of Seattle

Many states will either "not-opt" or "opt-in"

- States will either voluntarily "opt-in" or wait 90 days and essentially "no-opt" or not choose an option, therefore allowing FirstNet to proceed.
- Law for the creation of FirstNet was passed during the Obama Administration. Governor's may "opt-out" or "no-opt" because of their political alignment.
- Many states cannot build and support their own networks. States would not be able to build and support a wireless network in remote, rural and tribal areas of their states unless they contributed large amounts.

Governor's May Choose to "Opt-Out"

- Republican Governors could see this as an initiative of the Democratic Obama administration and actively want to build and operate their own network.
- Some states have high density of populations and first responders. Building their own network in these states might make better sense because there would be more users.
 - Examples: Massachusetts or Florida
- Mississippi is not working with FirstNet. Mississippi is partnering with CSpire, a regional cellular carrier, and might be able to support an independent responder network in the state.

Opt-Out States Are Required to Build their Networks

- FirstNet is concerned about having states "opt-out" because it will leave holes in the nationwide network. FirstNet's spectrum is more valuable if it is "seamless" nationwide.
- Both the FCC and the NTIA must approve an "opt-out" state's plan, within 180 days of "opt-out".
- States will endure financial risk in "opting-out", particularly since most states cannot compel their police, sheriff, fire and other public safety agencies to use the network.

- Verizon has announced a “Quality of Service” product available only to public safety agencies and AT&T is expected to do the same. Both companies have indicated that they are not interested in working with “opt-out” states which means they will be competing, making it more difficult for “opt-out” states to earn market share.
- Updates to the LTE networks are being released which may make it difficult for “opt-out” states to keep up with technology.

Phone Conference: Michael Myers – April 25, 2016

Michael Myers – Director of Business Development – Parsons Corporation

Parsons responded to RFP/RFI for New Hampshire. Parsons Proposal/Presentation to New Hampshire:

- Bring in private equity to create a new broadband company in the state.
- The private equity would pay for the build-out as well as its long term operations.
- The state would grant a concession for the use of the spectrum, making the state part owner of the network, taking in revenue through the P3.
 - Priority 1: Public Safety
 - Priority 2: Secondary first responders
 - Priority 3: Commercial bandwidth

Feedback on “Opt-Out”:

- State “opt-out” and build revenue based on the PPP partner.
- If Governor “opts-out”, would apply for NTIA grant.
- Equal amount of funds will distributed from NTIA grant among states.
- Limited amount of contractors for the construction of the network

Feedback in relation to revenue recovery:

- Equity would bring in funds; state would provide the assets: land, spectrum, etc.
- Equitable share of ownership would be in the P3 for the state
- Any revenue that the state does receive should be put toward public safety. Primarily, priorities 1 and 2.
- Secondary users will have a business operations side in which they will pay for access.
 - Band 14 for transportation or rail authorities
 - SLA would be arranged with the secondary responders. The SLA would be long-term for transportation authorities, rail authorities, Department of Energy, etc.
 - Federal and state agencies would need access to the complete coverage of the state.
- Priority 3 clients = whoever wants access to all of the clients within state’s boundaries through the network such as Netflix, Google, etc.
- Fosters economic development
 - Electric corporations (maybe in rural areas) can provide broadband (wireless) services through a Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) to customers while paying long-term SLAs to create the infrastructure for their primary businesses

FirstNet “Opt-In/Opt-Out” Task Force Log

Project Description: The FirstNet Broadband Committee has organized an internal working group called the FirstNet “Opt-in/Opt-out” Task Force to research FirstNet “opt-in/opt-out” options to ensure that all information is available for the State of Iowa prior to the final presentation to Governor Branstad.

Date	Time	Action	Meeting Notes	Results	Other Details
4/8/16	11:30 AM	Task Force Conference Call		Action Items: - Schedule Meeting with Bill Schrier – RIC LUMBARD MET WITH BILL AT SPOC CONFERENCE - Schedule meeting with Michael Myers - COMPLETE - Create Project Log - COMPLETE - Transcribe Dave Duncan Response from PPPS - COMPLETE - Establish Taskforce shared folder - COMPLETE - Pull "opt-out" slides from SPOC PowerPoint. - COMPLETE - State RFI's - COMPLETE	Questions: - Position paper/white paper from other states documenting: what other states have done, support behind their positions and data that they are aware of. - Financial Model - What are the financial considerations driving the decision to opt-out? - Legal Papers - Legal position papers on opting-out. What does the law say?
4/13/16	-	Meeting with Drew Delaney		Informed of Task Force FirstNet “Opt-in/Opt-out” Study - COMPLETE	
4/13/16 4/14/16	Conference	SPOC Meeting	Notes provided to committee	COMPLETE	
4/15/16	11:30 AM	Task Force Conference Call	Discussed SPOC Meeting Reviewed official FirstNet “Opt-in/Opt-out” plan	Action Items: - Review Bill Schrier's article released on April 12, 2016 - COMPLETE - Provide comments to the Bill Schrier article - COMPLETE - Prepare Report for May 3rd FirstNet Broadband Committee Meeting following meeting with Michael Myers - COMPLETE	Questions: - Identify presenter for Taskforce findings at the next FirstNet Broadband Meeting.
4/22/16	11:30 AM	Task Force Conference Call		Prepare taskforce Report - COMPLETE	
4/25/16	1:00 PM	Meeting with Michael Myers		COMPLETE	
4/28/16	4:00 PM	Ric Lumbard - Meeting with Governor Branstad		Update provided to Governor Branstad, Chief of Staff and Department of Management (DOM) on the preliminary status on the “opt-in/opt-out” position. Re-verified current position. - COMPLETE	
4/29/16	11:30 AM	Task Force Conference Call	Prepared presentation for FirstNet Broadband Committee on May 3 Sent final “Opt-in/Opt-out” Report to FirstNet Broadband Committee	Action Items: - Following approval from FirstNet Broadband Committee on May 3, the report will be sent to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB). - COMPLETE	

